

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Judith Paz, I am a member of the Communities Without Borders organization, I live in Norwalk, I am married, and I have 2 daughters.

I am in favor of SB 284: A LAW TO INCREASE THE AGE FROM 8 TO 18 YEARS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS.

Two years ago my mother-in-law became seriously ill, she was diagnosed with cancer, she was undergoing treatment for this disease. It all started when she felt pain in her stomach, it took months for the disease to be diagnosed, because, from her medical appointment, even the specialist's referee took many months to give her the appointment, we did not go to the hospital because we did not have medical insurance, and we had the fear of the bill and not being able to pay it.

It was very difficult to see her suffer, my husband became anxious because of the situation they were experiencing due to her mother's health, which was getting worse and worse, my daughters have also suffered the loss of their grandmother.

My mother-in-law passed away in the fall of 2021, due to cancer, which metastasized through various organs in her body.

If she had had medical insurance, her medical appointments would have been faster, and she would have known of her condition sooner.

I am giving this testimony because I want you to know that there are many families destroyed by the pain and death of a loved one.

We undocumented immigrants in the United States have no access to health insurance and receive lower-quality care than people born in the country. During the COVID-19 pandemic, difficulties in accessing health care have only intensified, widening existing inequalities and increasing the spread of the disease.

I support the bill SB 284 and I hope that you make the decision in favor of the Immigrant Families, who so much need to have health insurance.

Thanks for your time,
Judith Paz.